

June 8, 1965

Commissioner E. F. Van Kessel  
Palm Beach County Commission  
Palm Beach County Court House  
West Palm Beach, Florida

Re: Palm Beach County Public Library Service

Dear Commissioner Van Kessel:

I am writing to you concerning the proposal to establish a County Library System for Palm Beach County. Although this letter is written as an expression of my personal views, my concern with Public Library Facilities includes service as member of the First Library Board, North Palm Beach Village Library, as well as serving in an advisory capacity to the Town of Lake Park Library. In addition, my wife, who replaced me on the North Palm Beach Library Board when I was appointed Village Attorney, is currently the Chairman of this board and, as such, is also concerned with County Library Service.

At the conclusion of the Public Hearing on Monday, June 7th, it seems that the consensus of opinion and fact is as follows:

1. A county library system is needed and wanted in Palm Beach County.
2. The most feasible method of financing and operating such a system requires additional study and time.
3. According to Chapter 150 of the Florida Statutes, the proposed budget for the County Library must be presented prior to July 1st of each year, and a report containing statistics and other information required by the County Commissioners must be presented prior to November 1st of each year.

It would seem, therefore, that if the County Library System is adopted after July 1, 1965, most problems connected with who will be taxed to pay for this service will have a substantial time to be solved before the taxes are levied. Therefore, I suggest that the logical and progressive steps to be taken next are these:

1. The County Commission should publish notice two times, as set forth in 150.02, Florida Statutes, giving the date at which time action will be taken to adopt a County Library System. This date should be the first regular commission meeting after July 1, 1965.

2. At this meeting you could move, and you and the Commission could vote, to establish a County Library System. This will satisfy the need for positive action now without any legal possibility of committing county funds before the budget year 1966 - 1967, which must be considered by any reasonable standard as sufficient time to plan a proper program.

3. The County Commissioners would then recommend five persons to Governor Burns for appointment to the Library Board in accordance with 150.03, Florida Statutes. As members of this Board I would suggest you consider recommending Mr. Paul Speicher, of Delray Beach, whose successful concern with the Delray Beach Library and with the tax structure of the County Library would render him extremely valuable to our County Library Board. Also, in recognition of the extraordinary work of the League of Women Voters, I would suggest you solicit at least one proposed member they would recommend. The other members should also be responsible citizens who have been and are concerned with library functions and services as well as with a conservative fiscal policy to fairly establish and maintain our County System.

4. As per 150.05, Florida Statutes, the county board could require the library board to give such statistics and other information to the county board as will help determine the most feasible method of maintaining and operating library service for our county. This report is mandatory by November 1st, four months after establishment of the library and should be ample time to make a preliminary report. Then by next July 1st the library board and the county board should be in an excellent position to

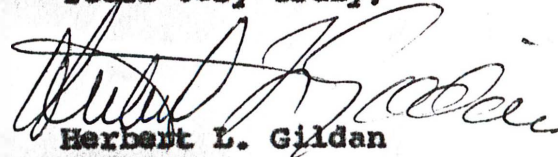
discuss budgeting funds for the following fiscal year as determined by the two boards. Meanwhile, between November 1, 1965 and July 1, 1966 the library board with county board assent could contact municipal libraries to see which, if any, would care to participate and on what basis. These could then be determined sufficiently in advance of July 1, 1966, that the proper tax base or districts and the desired extent of County Library Facilities would be ready to proceed, and by November of 1966 the actual beginnings of library service for all of Palm Beach County would occur. By permitting the library board which would be responsible by law to administer and maintain the County Library System to conduct its own feasibility study for one year, you will avoid duplication of effort and place the responsibility for this in the proper hands. Otherwise, an advisability group may not recommend what the library board feels is proper and this needed facility can be studied to death.

I have taken the time to suggest the above because I believe this will honor the objectives of the League of Women Voters and the Delray Beach Library Board, who both appear to want good library service for our county without a necessary commitment for extra taxation for municipalities that currently support libraries. I sincerely feel, however, that a study group, per se, might set their program back beyond 1966 - 1967 to the detriment of the entire county. By law, however, if the system is adopted after July 1, 1965, no moneys would be available until November 1, 1966, and this would set a reasonable, legal objective which I believe will be of substantial benefit to our county. The League cannot object to your abiding by the law which necessitates delay, and the Delray Library Board has certainly endorsed a county library system provided time is provided for responsible people to study the minute details of the matter and set up a conservative fiscal and tax program which does not discriminate against established libraries.

In view of your constant efforts to attract industry and residents to our county by sincere and thoughtful planning, I have directed my thoughts to you in the hope you will personally move the proper steps to establish our library. This may be an added inducement to industry and future residents to locate in Palm Beach County. I am also enclosing copies of this letter to Mr. Speicher and Mrs. Weinstock for their comments, if any, in

the hope that this presents a plan acceptable to all who are sincerely interested in providing proper county library service. Be assured, also, that I have no pride of authorship for this plan and you may feel free to adopt it as your own or to amend it to conform to your personal views. I do, however, expressly urge you to take definite action soon.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Herbert L. Gildan', written over the typed name.

Herbert L. Gildan

HLG:gc



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

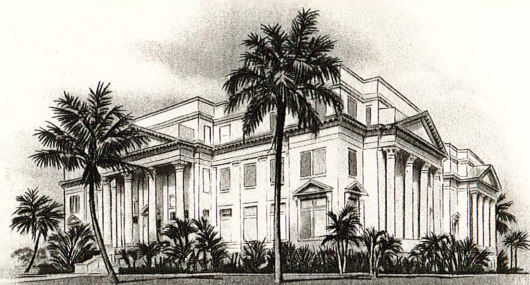
LAKE LYTAL, CHAIRMAN  
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HENRY F. LILIENTHAL  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

HARRY A. JOHNSTON, II  
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY

G. R. FROST  
ENGINEER

J. P. ICARD  
COMPTROLLER

PALM BEACH COUNTY

WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

November 5, 1965

Mrs. W. E. Eckler  
Seacrest Blvd.  
Delray Beach, Florida

Dear Mrs. Eckler:

This is to notify you that you have been officially appointed to the 15-member Library Study Committee and I want you to know how much I appreciate your offering your services to help study the problems of libraries within the county. I am sure that this committee, which is composed of people knowledgeable in library matters, will come up with a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners.

I realize that this will take a great deal of your time, but it is a very important undertaking. I am quite certain that the citizens of Palm Beach County would be interested in establishing only the best possible library services and we will depend on your committee to tell us what to do.

The Board of County Commissioners will notify you of the date of the organizational meeting, at which time you will be called upon to select a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and any other officer the committee members feel would make for a smooth operation. From that time on, the Committee will be on its own, without interference from anyone.

Again, our sincere thanks for agreeing to serve on this most important committee, and with very best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Lake Lytal  
Chairman

LL:r

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

LAKE LYTAL, CHAIRMAN

DIST. NO. 2, WEST PALM BEACH

GEORGE WARREN, VICE CHAIRMAN

DIST. NO. 4, DELRAY BEACH

E. F. VAN KESSEL

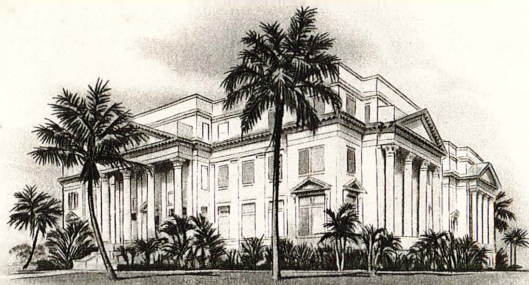
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ENGINEER

J. P. ICARD  
COMPTROLLER

PALM BEACH COUNTY

WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

November 18, 1965

Mrs. W. E. Eckler  
Seacrest Blvd.  
Delray Beach, Florida

Dear Mrs. Eckler:

At our meeting of November 16th, the Board of County Commissioners selected Tuesday, November 23rd, as the date of the organizational meeting for the new Library Advisory Committee. The meeting will be held in the County Commission Meeting Room, Room 114, of the Courthouse at 8 p. m.

I sincerely hope that this time is satisfactory to you as we are anxious to have one hundred percent attendance at this first meeting, the purpose of which is to get acquainted with each other, select a Chairman and other officers, and get organized so that the Committee will be able to function on its own from then on.

We sincerely appreciate your interest in this matter and hope you will be able to attend this very important organizational meeting.

Sincerely yours,

*Lake Lytal*

Lake Lytal  
Chairman

LL:r

Tuesday, November 23rd, 8 p. m.  
Room 114, County Courthouse

# PALM BEACH COUNTY

## LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 12, 1965  
23

The organizational meeting of the Palm Beach County Library Advisory Committee was called to order on Tuesday, November 23, 1965, at 8:15 p.m. by the Chairman of the Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners, Mr. Lake Lytal in Room #114 of the Palm Beach County Courthouse.

Those present were County Commissioners, Lytal, Warren, Weaver and Van Kessel, Mr. H. L. Gildan, Mrs. A. J. Van Berkum, Mr. K. Nolen, Miss Mamie T. Shannon, Mrs. A. S. Rush, Mr. Charles Munnings, Mrs. L. R. Leviton, Mrs. Charles Taffel, Mrs. L. G. Thompson, Mrs. W. E. Eckler, Mr. Paul Speicher, Mr. W. F. Mitchell and Mrs. Mildred Larrick. Mrs. Marilyn Poteete and Mr. Larry Royal were absent.

After a brief description of the purpose and duties of this committee, Commission Chairman Lytal conducted an election of officers. Mrs. W. E. Eckler was nominated for chairman by Mr. Paul Speicher. Mr. Herbert Gildan was nominated by Mrs. Alan S. Rush. These nominations were seconded and there was a written ballot resulting in the election of Mrs. Eckler as chairman and Mr. Gildan as vice chairman. Mrs. Alan S. Rush was nominated for recording secretary by Mr. Gildan. Nomination seconded and Mrs. Rush was elected. Mrs. Eckler thought we could wait till later to elect a corresponding secretary.

Commissioner Warren suggested we name the committee. The name will be Palm Beach County Library Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Weaver expressed the hope that this committee will divide itself into various categories to bring up points of information valuable to us: 1. From business or financial aspect. 2. From basic aspect of literature for libraries. 3. From general category of culture. Possibly three or four different committees within this committee could be appointed pertaining to this operation.

Mrs. Eckler: Perhaps we could detail several objectives toward which we might work. Wondered about making use of State Library people in getting a professional survey. Find out if they would do a survey for the county -- what costs would be involved; if they would be agreeable to doing it, maybe detail specific points that we would want them to keep in mind. Throws this out as a suggestion.

Mr. Mitchell: Thinks it would be interesting to know where we are today -- what the history was that led up to forming this group. Determine what is the acceptable norm.

Mrs. Leviton: Understands that the National Library Association has a standard form that they apply to libraries -- certain standardized questions as to quantity and qualities of libraries.

Mrs. Taffel: Agrees that we ask State Library Association to make a survey and use any help from them.

Mr. Nolen: Is our group to make a study or should we include how to raise the money for such a system?

Mrs. Eckler: Where are we today? What goals can be set? At what point would the county step in? We are here to find out the answers to these things. Take into account existing services in the County, look at geography, give you a graphic picture in words what you have. We could give them direction on specific things -- Are we equipped to say that certain libraries in this county meet certain standards?



NOVEMBER 23, 1965

Let's face it -- all libraries don't all meet the standards. There are standards toward which we can strive. If it meets with your approval, we should write to Verna Nistendirk. Possibly we could set a date now for our next meeting and she could be advised that we will need certain materials.

Mrs. Leviton: Perhaps someone from the State Library Board could meet with us.

Mr. Mitchell: Mentioned Mr. Edward Heiliger, Director of Library Services at Fla. Atlantic University, might be glad to come here -- if we find a need for a county library system and perhaps we should find out about tax districts.

Comm. Lital: It would be interesting to find out how existing libraries finance themselves. Perhaps you would like to appoint a committee to do this.

Mr. Gildan: made a motion that we contact Verna Nistendirk of the State Library Board to determine if they will conduct a survey of Palm Beach County and report back to this group as soon as possible if one of them could meet with us. Motion seconded and carried.

Mr. Gildan made a motion that the chairman please appoint a committee to go over the facts and see what are relevant and see what facts we have and what we may be able to explore. Motion seconded and carried.

The chairman asked Mrs. Rush to get the material from Mrs. Lily Roberts at the Courthouse the first of next week. The chairman appointed Mrs. Rush, Mrs. Taffel, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Leviton and Mr. Murrings to serve on this committee.

Mrs. Taffel: suggested that the material be distributed to all members of the committee so we could share it.

Mr. Mitchell: suggested Mrs. Eckler pass it around to Mr. Speicher and himself.

Comm. Weaver: One area that is served the least is the Glades. He will be glad to act as a liaison person for the Glades Committee members.

Miss Shannon: Will be glad to help with reading and getting the material distributed.

Mr. Nolen: Are we thinking in terms of one meeting a month?

A vote was taken on a definite meeting date and it resulted in the third Wednesday each month beginning the third Wednesday in January -- January 19, 1966.

It was suggested we check into meeting at the various libraries in Palm Beach County. Mr. Speicher thinks this is an excellent idea.

Mrs. Eckler: Will check into our meeting at the West Palm Beach Public Library on Wednesday, January 19, 1966 at 8 p.m.

Asked for a meeting of the committee on reviewing the material we have on Wednesday, December 1, 1965 at 10 a.m. with Mrs. Roberts at the Courthouse.

Comm. Van Kessel: suggested we concentrate on what we have available now in Palm Beach County and then start having meetings in the various libraries.

Mr. Gildan: Thought we should start going to the other libraries by the third Wednesday in February.

Mrs. Taffel made a motion to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Motion seconded and carried.

*Reine Rush*

Reine Rush (Mrs. Alan S. Rush)  
Recording Secretary



MEMO TO: MEMBERS OF LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

December 8, 1965

FROM: MRS. W. E. ECKLER, CHAIRMAN

This is to bring all of you up to date on what has been accomplished since our organizational meeting.

On December 1st a sub-committee of four of us went through the files which are in the County Commissioners' office pertaining to the matter of County Library Service and found many letters and resolutions in the Commissioners' file. In the file turned over by the League of Women Voters there is a copy of the proposition for Library service as presented by them together with the results of the survey which they had made. It was the unanimous feeling of this sub-committee that these files should remain in tact and in the Commissioners' office. I feel sure that if at some time any of you would like to take a few minutes to go through them, they would be made available to you.

As instructed by you, I wrote Miss Verna Nistenderk, Director of the Extension Division of the Florida State Library. Miss Elizabeth Cole, a member of the Extension Division, answered my letter due to the fact that Miss Nistenderk was out of the city and also because she will be our consultant. The State is divided into three sections and each of the members of the Extension staff is assigned one section. Miss Cole has the south end of the State. You have by now received some materials which she was good enough to send to me for distribution. I am sure you will find it helpful.

I learned that Miss Cole was going to be in this area and was fortunate enough to reach her and set up a meeting which was held Monday, December 6th. Mrs. Rush and Mr. Gildan were with us for part of our conversation. One of the things she had sent me was a copy of the questionnaire used when the Extension Division made a survey of Library service in Polk County. We all agreed that it would be good for each of us to have a copy of it. Miss Cole will send these directly to each of you. Will you please read it over carefully in the light of applying it to Palm Beach County. Make any changes and/or suggestions you think advisable and return the form to her as soon as possible. She will incorporate such suggestions as she can. We will have to rely on her discretion and professional knowledge of how these things are done but she is anxious to have the thinking of the committee members. If we get these to her soon enough, she may be able to have a final draft ready before our January 19th meeting in which case she will plan to stay here at that time and make the necessary interviews for the survey. She would like for each member of the committee to go with her on at least one interview so that we will all be familiar with how the information for such a survey is gathered.

I felt it was most helpful to have had this opportunity to talk with Miss Cole and was delighted that the other two committee officers were able to meet her.

Arrangements have been made to hold our next meeting, Wednesday, January 19, 1966, in the Lecture Room of the West Palm Beach Library at 8:00 P.M. Please mark your calendars NOW and make every effort to be in attendance. Miss Cole will be with us.

May each of you have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

PALM BEACH COUNTY  
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 19, 1966

The regular meeting of the Palm Beach County Library Advisory Committee was called to order at 8:10 p.m. on Wednesday, January 19, 1966 by the Chairman, Mrs. W. E. Eckler, in the West Palm Beach Public Library lecture room.

Those present were: Miss Elizabeth Cole, Public Library Consultant from the State Library at Tallahassee; Mrs. Eckler, Mrs. L. R. Leviton, Mr. Charles Murrings, Mr. Larry Royal, Mrs. Alan S. Rush, Miss Mamie T. Shannon, Mr. Paul Speicher, Mrs. Charles Taffel and Mrs. Leslie G. Thompson. Mr. Gildan, Mrs. Larrick, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Nolen, Mrs. Poteete and Mrs. Van Berkum were absent. Miss Zella Adams, Head Librarian of the West Palm Beach Public Library, and her Assistant Librarian, Mr. John Hillis, and two staff members also were present.

Mr. Royal made a motion that the minutes of the November 23, 1965 meeting be received as distributed with one correction in date. Motion seconded and carried.

The Chairman set up the following committees: 1. Bookmobiles - Mr. Royal. 2. Publicity - Mrs. Eckler. 3. School Library Services - Miss Shannon and Mr. Murrings. 4. Provisions of Library Laws - Mr. Gildan, Mr. Nolen. 5. Financing - Mr. Speicher, Chairman; Mrs. Taffel, Mrs. Leviton and Mr. Nolen.

Miss Frances Burke, Post-Times reporter, appeared at the meeting and arranged to phone Mrs. Rush for news of the meeting.

The Chairman announced the next meeting will be February 16 at the North Palm Beach Library. On March 16 we will meet at the Delray Beach Library and perhaps in April we will go out to the Glades.

Miss Elizabeth Cole talked to us about the survey she is making during the next four days and members of the committee volunteered to go with her according to the following schedule:

January 20

9 a.m. - Lantana - Mrs. Taffel  
11 a.m. - Boynton Beach - Mrs. Eckler  
2 p.m. - Delray Beach - Mrs. Eckler  
4 p.m. - Boca Raton - Mr. Mitchell,  
Mrs. Thompson

January 22

9 a.m. - Belle Glade - Mr. Royal  
Mrs. Larrick  
11 a.m. - Pahokee - Mrs. Poteete

January 21

9 a.m. - Lake Worth - Mrs. Rush  
Mrs. Thompson  
11 a.m. - Greenacres - Mrs. Taffel  
2 p.m. - Riviera Beach  
Miss Shannon  
4 p.m. - Palm Beach (4 Arts)  
Mrs. Leviton, Mrs. Rush  
5 p.m. - W. Palm Beach  
Mr. Murrings, Mrs. Rush

January 24

9 a.m. - Lake Park - Mr. Gildan  
Mrs. Leviton  
11 a.m. - North Palm Beach  
Mr. Gildan, Mr. Nolen,  
Mrs. Leviton

Miss Cole just learned that Mrs. Van Berkum has had a stroke and cannot have visitors or read correspondence.

Miss Cole: "We are not going to jump to any conclusions in Palm Beach County until we have found out what the facts are. Detach yourself from your own library. As a taxpayer you are a county citizen. Our main interest is to find out what it will cost. Don't get excited about it being expensive but think about what you are buying."

Miss Cole suggested that the Committee get in touch with Mr. Edgar W. Maxwell, County Tax Assessor. Information should be on IBM cards. Consider what you have from the city and what you have from the county. Upon application you can find out about state and federal funds.

Miss Cole will mail a "plan" to each committee member. Miss Cole will mail tabulations of the results of the survey after the questionnaires are filled out. She will tabulate them according to Florida standards rather than American Library Association standards.

Mr. Speicher inquired about bringing population figures up-to-date. Miss Zella Adams offered to get the exact information from the Florida Power & Light Company. It will be a closer estimate than the 1960 census.

There was a discussion about how county library systems work. Miss Cole said if libraries cooperated they could work together to make money go further and get more use of what they have. Each library could supply books that are of interest to the particular people in that section. Could also centralize processing and cataloging of the books -- cataloging would take care of whole county. Avoid duplication of services and work -- all under one head. If libraries would go in the same direction and charge same non-resident fee, you could even check out a book in Pahokee and return it in West Palm Beach.

Build on the strongest library you have. Negotiate a contract between the county and the city. Suppose that West Palm Beach was the core library (contract between county and city and each participating library). Financing would come through the county. There is an unfinished room at the West Palm Beach Public Library that could be used. Libraries would get books, material and staff. Bookmobiles would be furnished by county. Would have to give free library service to any resident.

Mrs. Leviton suggested a master file showing location of books in each library.

Mrs. Eckler and Mr. Speicher described the Delray Beach library. The Library Association owns the building and elects the library board. Board members serve without pay.

Mrs. Leviton asked Miss Cole to get a copy of the Sarasota agreement and send it to her.

Miss Zella Adams reported that the West Palm Beach Library now issues non-resident cards at \$2.00 each for children and \$4.00 for adults. This was initiated by the West Palm Beach City Commission last October.

It was mentioned that library service includes the law library in the courthouse, the medical library and Temple Beth El library.

Mr. Speicher asked if it would be possible to gather information as to population and area location of school libraries. The whole bit would be most valuable.

Mr. Speicher announced that there would be a meeting of the subcommittee on finance following this regular meeting.

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Reine Rush

Reine Rush (Mrs. Alan S.)  
Recording Secretary



OFFICERS:

CHAIRMAN:

MRS. W. E. ECKLER  
BOX 183  
DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA

VICE CHAIRMAN:

HERBERT L. GILDAN  
ROOM 1018 HARVEY BLDG  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

SECRETARY:

MRS. ALAN S. RUSH  
83 FLAMINGO DRIVE  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

PALM BEACH COUNTY  
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

P. O. Box 183  
DeLray Beach, Florida  
February 9, 1966

MEMBERS:

MRS. A. J. VANBERKUM  
KENNETH NOLEN  
MISS MAMIE T. SHANNON  
CHARLES MUNNINGS  
WEST PALM BEACH  
MRS. LAWRENCE R. LEVITON  
PALM BEACH  
MRS. CHARLES TAFFEL  
PALM SPRINGS  
MRS. LESLIE G. THOMPSON  
LAKE WORTH  
PAUL SPEICHER  
DELRAY BEACH  
WILLIAM F. MITCHELL  
BOCA RATON  
MRS. MILDRED LARRICK  
LAKE HARBOR  
MRS. F. H. POTEETE  
PAHONKEE  
LARRY ROYAL  
BELLE GLADE

1-20-66 Mitchell resigned  
~~2-16-66~~ Mrs. A. J. Van Berkum ~~Deceased~~  
4-6-66 John T. OPEL to replace Mitchell  
4-14-66 Mrs. Larry V. Keys - Van Berkum

10-4-67 all seen with the members  
appointed to be first  
Library Advisory Board

10-10-67 NOLEN - o -  
MUNNINGS - NO ANSWER  
THOMPSON - o -  
LARRICK No answer  
Poteete  
Royal - o -

By 3-22-68

APPOINTED: ROBERT STEVENS ✓  
~~MRS. MAMIE T. SHANNON~~

need one more  
HOMER HAND  
MRS. JOSEPH R. ORSENIGO  
MRS. JERRY GUFFEY ✓  
MRS. R. S. DOUTHIT



Officers:

Chairman:

Mrs. W. E. Eckler  
P. O. Box 183  
Delray Beach, Florida

Vice Chairman:

Herbert L. Gildan  
Room 1015, Harvey Bldg.  
West Palm Beach, Florida

Secretary:

Mrs. Alan S. Bush  
312 Flamingo Drive  
West Palm Beach, Florida

PALM BEACH COUNTY  
LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Members:

Homer Hand  
Mrs. Joseph R. Orsenigo  
Belle Glade

John Opel  
Boca Raton

Paul Speicher  
Delray Beach

Mrs. Jerry Guffey  
North Palm Beach

Mrs. R. S. Douthitt  
Pahokee

Mrs. Lawrence R. Levitt<sup>OK</sup>  
Palm Beach

Mrs. Charles Taffel  
Palm Springs

Mrs. H. V. Nye  
Riviera Beach

Miss Mamie T. Shannon  
Robert Stevens  
West Palm Beach

Date unknown  
1965-1967?

## OFFICERS:

## CHAIRMAN:

MRS. W. E. ECKLER  
BOX 183  
DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA

## VICE CHAIRMAN:

HERBERT L. GILDAN  
ROOM 1015 HARVEY BLDG.  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

## SECRETARY:

MRS. ALAN S. RUSH  
812 FLAMINGO DRIVE  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

PALM BEACH COUNTY  
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 16, 1966

## MEMBERS:

MRS. A. J. VANBERKUM  
KENNETH NOLAN  
MISS MAMIE T. SHANNON  
CHARLES MUNNINGS  
WEST PALM BEACH  
MRS. LAWRENCE R. LEVITON  
PALM BEACH  
MRS. CHARLES TAFFEL  
PALM SPRINGS  
MRS. LESLIE G. THOMPSON  
LAKE WORTH  
PAUL SPEICHER  
DELRAY BEACH  
WILLIAM F. MITCHELL  
BOCA RATON  
MRS. MILDRED LARRICK  
LAKE HARBOR  
MRS. F. H. POTEETE  
PAHOKEE  
LARRY ROYAL  
BELLE GLADE

The regular meeting of the Palm Beach County Library Advisory Committee was called to order on Wednesday, February, 1966, at 8 p.m. by the Chairman, Mrs. W. E. Eckler, in the North Palm Beach Library.

Those present were: Mrs. Eckler, Mr. Herbert Gildan, Mrs. Alan S. Rush, Mr. Paul Speicher, Miss Mamie T. Shannon, Mrs. Charles Taffel, Mrs. Leslie J. Thompson, Mr. Charles Munnings, Mrs. Lawrence R. Leviton and Mr. Kenneth Nolan. Those absent were: Mrs. Larrick, Mrs. Poteete, Mr. Royal, Mr. Mitchell and Mrs. Van Berkum.

The Chairman announced that Mr. William F. Mitchell has resigned and Commissioner Warren is seeking a replacement. Mrs. Eckler will ask Commissioner Van Kessel about Mrs. Van Berkum.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as distributed.

The Chairman reported that Miss Elizabeth Cole of Tallahassee hopes to be with us at our March 16th meeting and will try to get copies of her survey to a member from each district to share with others ahead of time.

Mrs. Taffel and Mrs. Leviton went to see Mr. R. C. Pilger of the Palm Beach County Information Service and he gave them the latest estimated population figures for communities in Palm Beach County as of December 31, 1965. Mrs. Taffel sent a copy to Miss Cole and one to Mr. Speicher.

The Secretary, Mrs. Rush, was instructed to have 20 duplicates of this sheet of figures made at the County Commissioners' office. She was also to write a letter of appreciation to Mr. R. C. Pilger, P. O. Box 1548, West Palm Beach, for these figures and a map. In the letter Mr. Pilger will be requested to allow each of our members to have a copy of the new booklet, "There's a Future for You in Palm Beach County," together with map.

The Secretary is to get 20 copies of "Your Property Taxes" (1965-66) from the County Commissioners' office.

Mrs. Leviton suggested that our next project should be to study other county library systems. In Mrs. Eckler's letter to Miss Cole she will ask to whom we should write about how the problems were solved in other counties.

Mr. Nolan asked if we have put down on paper what our problems are. Mrs. Eckler replied that the survey will tell us.

Mr. Gildan said that the survey should reveal how many people do not have proper library services. He also mentioned the possibility of getting state and federal funds if we have a county library system. Most federal money comes on a matching basis. Mr. Gildan suggested writing to our legislators--especially Jerry Thomas--to get all the facts we can.

CONTINUED



## OFFICERS:

## CHAIRMAN:

MRS. W. E. ECKLER  
BOX 183  
DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA

## VICE CHAIRMAN:

HERBERT L. GILDAN  
ROOM 1018 HARVEY BLDG.  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

## SECRETARY:

MRS. ALAN S. RUSH  
812 FLAMINGO DRIVE  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

PALM BEACH COUNTY  
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 16, 1966

## MEMBERS:

MRS. A. J. VANBERKUM  
KENNETH NOLAN  
MISS MAMIE T. SHANNON  
CHARLES MUNNINGS  
WEST PALM BEACH  
MRS. LAWRENCE R. LEVITON  
PALM BEACH  
MRS. CHARLES TAFFEL  
PALM SPRINGS  
MRS. LESLIE G. THOMPSON  
LAKE WORTH  
PAUL SPEICHER  
DELRAY BEACH  
WILLIAM F. MITCHELL  
BOCA RATON  
MRS. MILDRED LARRICK  
LAKE HARBOR  
MRS. F. H. POTEETE  
PANORAMA  
LARRY ROYAL  
BELLE GLADE

The regular meeting of the Palm Beach County Library Advisory Committee was called to order on Wednesday, March 16, 1966, at 8:20 p.m. by the Chairman, Mrs. W. E. Eckler, in the Delray Beach Public Library.

Those present were: Mrs. Eckler, Mr. Herbert Gildan, Mrs. Alan S. Rush, Mr. Paul Speicher, Miss Mamie T. Shannon, Mrs. Charles Taffel, Mrs. Lawrence R. Leviton, Mrs. Mildred Larrick, Mr. Charles Munnings and Mr. Larry Royal.

Those absent were: Mrs. Leslie G. Thompson, Mr. Kenneth Nolen and Mrs. F. H. Poteete.

Miss Elizabeth Cole, Florida State Library staff, Tallahassee, was present--also the Delray Beach Librarian, Miss Carolyn Wolf, the West Palm Beach Librarian, Miss Zella Adams, and members of the Delray Beach Library Board including Mr. John Ross Adams, president, Mr. Harvey Brown, Mrs. James L. Bower and Mr. Matt Gracey.

Mrs. Leviton made a motion that the minutes of the February 16th meeting stand approved as received. Motion seconded and carried.

Mr. Speicher distributed letters on the Delray Library Building Fund drive to be held in order to build an addition to double the square footage of the present library.

Mrs. Eckler pointed out that the recent survey made by Miss Cole is the State Library Committee report to us. Miss Cole called our attention that this survey is a rough draft. Mrs. Eckler read parts of the survey and corrections were suggested as we went along.

Mrs. Taffel: "What we have to decide now is --are we going to accept the recommendations that the State Library Board made to us. How are we going to implement this?"

Mrs. Eckler - "It reads that it is a recommendation of this committee but it is not. It is a report to us--a tool for us to use. Any report that we come up with to the County Commission will be based upon this plus anything further that we come up with.

Miss Cole: "Don't feel that you will hurt my feelings by anything you say about this piece of work. Say whatever you want."

Mr. Gildan: "Miss Cole has given us a guideline. We anticipated a report from Miss Cole directly to us instead of from us to the County Commission. This survey is a work tool for us. The report that will be widely distributed will be our report."

Mrs. Taffel: "When we do come up with a report, be sure we make clear that a good part of it was received from the State Library through us." Suggested that we get figures librarians are paid and list them in a chart.

Miss Zella Adams: "Anybody can go to City Hall and get the pay roll of librarians (under Civil Service)."

Mrs. Eckler: Questioned figures in last column on page 9.

CONTINUED

Miss Cole: Referred to her comments on page 8 of the Survey.

Mr. Gildan: "Wouldn't it be important for us to know just how much tax money each city puts in its library?"

Mrs. Leviton: - Would like to see Miss Cole put in a proposed budget.

Miss Cole: "It takes a long time to work out a budget." Miss Cole would have to come to this county and work with the librarians in this county (This can't be done from information in this questionnaire).

Mrs. Leviton: "We should work one step at a time instead of saying \$456,000 is needed. If we spring \$456,000 on Palm Beach County, it would be difficult to make progress." (See page 23, paragraph 8 of survey).

Mrs. Taffel: "We have to decide what system we are going to elect--then we can cut figures)."

On page 15 of the Survey --Library Services--the following footnote should be added: "Population served includes population living in municipalities where tax money is used to support a library. UNSERVED -- those who live in municipalities where tax money is not used to support a library."

At our previous meeting we wanted to know what other counties have done. Mrs. Eckler wrote five other counties. She received a letter from Mrs. Barton of Plant City--they started out underfinanced. In Martin County they obtained a \$5,000 federal grant.

Miss Cole: "That's the reason I included a sample contract. There is a loose federation of the libraries in this county. In counties where they set up a county system, they sat down and talked individually with library board members, librarians, etc. Would you like to talk to these people or would you like me to do it?"

Mr. Speicher: "We will have to get this all done prior to our approach to the County Commission. Each of you could meet with your own Board and ask questions and report back to this committee."

Mr. Gildan: "We have a lot of problems to solve."

Mrs. Eckler: "Read the Library Law. A county system can be set up with a five member board appointed by the Governor. There could be a Board of 15 people appointed by the County Commission serving on a rotating basis--serving three year terms." A Board of 15 is more apt to represent a good cross-section of the county."

Mr. Speicher: Likes home rule

Library Law -- page 539 under contract with municipalities --discussed appointment of Library Board.

Miss Zella Adams: "The Board is appointed by the Governor as law has it. The County could appoint an Advisory Board--just empowered to offer advice. They have done this in Miami--geared toward extension service. If you contracted with West Palm Beach, it would double our staff--catalog, many more books--expenditure of more money. There is space in basement of West Palm Beach Library but it would have to be air conditioned. It is not in a good location to run bookmobiles or trucks." Suggested renting a building at airbase through City of West Palm Beach--to handle book processing--would be nearer

CONTINUED



## OFFICERS:

## CHAIRMAN:

MRS. W. E. ECKLER  
BOX 163  
DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA

## VICE CHAIRMAN:

HERBERT L. GILDAN  
ROOM 1018 HARVEY BLDG.  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

## SECRETARY:

MRS. ALAN S. RUSH  
812 FLAMINGO DRIVE  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

PALM BEACH COUNTY  
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 20, 1966

## MEMBERS:

MRS. A. J. VANBERKUM  
KENNETH NOLEN  
MISS MAMIE T. SHANNON  
CHARLES MUNNINGS  
WEST PALM BEACH  
MRS. LAWRENCE R. LEVITON  
PALM BEACH  
MRS. CHARLES TAFFEL  
PALM SPRINGS  
MRS. LESLIE G. THOMPSON  
LAKE WORTH  
PAUL SPEICHER  
DELRAY BEACH  
WILLIAM F. MITCHELL  
BOCA RATON  
MRS. MILDRED LARRICK  
LAKE HARBOR  
MRS. F. H. POTEETE  
PAHOKEE  
LARRY ROYAL  
BELLE GLADE

The regular meeting of the Palm Beach Library Advisory Committee was called to order on Wednesday, April 20, 1966, at 8 p.m. by the Chairman, Mrs. W. E. Eckler, in the Belle Glade Library.

Mrs. Eckler announced that two new committee members have been appointed by the County Commissioners -- Mr. John T. Opel, Editor of the Boca Raton News, 537 N.W. 9th Ave., Boca Raton 33482 (replacing Mr. William F. Mitchell) and Mrs. Harry W. Nye, 1281 Morse Blvd., Riviera Beach, 33404 (replacing Mrs. Rachel Van Berkum).

Members present were: Mrs. Eckler, Mr. Gildan, Mrs. Rush, Mr. Speicher, Mr. Royal, Mrs. Poteete, Mrs. Larrick and Mrs. Nye.

Members absent were: Mrs. Leviton, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Taffel, Mr. Munnings, Miss Shannon, Mr. Nolen and Mr. Opel.

Miss Elizabeth Cole, State Library consultant from Tallahassee; Miss Zella Adams, Head Librarian of the West Palm Beach Library; and Mrs. Orsenego of the Belle Glade Library Board also attended this meeting.

The minutes of the March 16, 1966 meeting were accepted as received.

Mr. Royal asked how long our terms as committee members run. Mr. Gildan replied that he thinks that when our work is over we will be liquidated.

Mrs. Eckler has received a copy of the new Library Standards. They have not been adopted yet but will be discussed at the convention in Clearwater on April 25. She strongly suggests that we get a copy from our librarian and read them.

Miss Cole said the standards may be changed at the convention -- then go to the State Library Board and be adopted. Standards will probably show \$5 per capita is what we should strive for -- discussion of usual standards as to personnel, physical facilities, etc.

Miss Cole asked Mrs. Larrick to find out salary of the Pahokee Librarian. Mrs. Larrick will ask for this information at the Pahokee City Hall.

Mrs. Eckler reminded us that the survey is a first draft and not for publication. Mr. Gildan suggested at the previous meeting that we go through and see what we accept or reject.

Mrs. Eckler: The <sup>time</sup> is coming when we will find a few firm areas which we agree on. Mr. Gildan: Suggested we start with figures.

Miss Cole: Presented two budgets for services based on two different plans for county-wide library service (copies attached to these minutes). Construction would be started on premise of completing the West Palm Beach Library as hdqtrs.

Miss Zella Adams: The new Lecture Room wall can be opened for air conditioning as the West Palm Beach Library was figuring on the use of the unfinished addition when it was built.

Mr. Speicher: In order to qualify for federal funds it is imperative to include West Palm Beach somehow.

Miss Adams: Even if you took a quonset hut and fixed it up, it would cost \$10,000.

continued

Miss Cole went over the tentative budgets in detail and answered questions concerning them.

Miss Adams: At present the WPB library is set up to serve 25,000 -- we are not set up to serve 60,000 people.

Mr. Speicher: asked about book processing.

Miss Cole: Processing may be done at center in Orlando -- 1st yr.-15¢; 2nd yr.-30¢; 3rd yr.-50¢; 4th yr.-80¢. This is a non-profit center and the processing is done very well -- A.B. Dick offset press -- Library of Congress cards, etc.

Miss Adams: The larger your book budget -- the greater the discount.

Mr. Royal - Asked Miss Cole which plan she prefers.

Miss Cole -- prefers the first plan but thinks we know the county better.

Mr. Speicher - Thinks we have to be more practical.

Mr. Gildan: It is valuable to have this information. We have some work to do on this.

Mrs. Eckler - gave Mr. Gildan photostats of contract between Hillsborough County and Town of Tampa.

Miss Cole: The secret is to make the plan as flexible as possible. This can be done through the contracts.

There was a discussion of bookmobile service once a week.

Mr. Speicher: We have just gone through a period of accreditation of schools. I do not think we can afford another mill.

Miss Cole: This requires less than 2/10 of a mill instead of a mill.

Mr. Speicher: In order to give the county the kind of library service it needs -- in about 10 years it would be close to a mill.

Mr. Gildan: Thinks we can accept what we want to do.

Miss Cole: The County Commission can either appropriate from the General Fund or levy on the untaxed areas.

Mr. Gildan: What we are trying to do is to come up with an answer politically acceptable and come up with an up-graded library system.

Mrs. Eckler: Please read through the recommendations on page 22 of the survey. Miss Cole has provided us with two alternatives. We should come up with a specific answer.

Mr. Gildan: Suggested we send a note with the April minutes to the County Commissioners telling of our progress to date. Mrs. Eckler will compose this note.

Mr. Speicher - Would like to consider the meshing of our great school expenditure on books.

Mrs. Eckler and Mr. Gildan will set up an appointment with Mr. Robert Fulton, County Supt. of School, and/or Mrs. Pirile to find out to what extent we could expect co-operation in meshing with the school system.

Mrs. Eckler - displayed a copy of a bookmobile schedule set up in Orlando.

CONTINUED

The Chairman announced that our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 18, probably at the Lake Worth Public Library. Mrs. Eckler will try to make the necessary arrangements.

Mr. Gildan - suggested that Mr. Speicher prepare a written statement on a method of financing on a five year plan.

Miss Zella Adams: Also a plan whereby it could be sent to the County Commissioners and the city officials.

[ Mrs. Eckler: We should have something to present to the County Commission by July 1st.

Mr. Gildan: Four or five libraries in Palm Beach County are planning to expand. If this is true, we might have some kind of a loose federation.

Mrs. Eckler: - thanked the Belle Glade members for providing the meeting place tonight and serving coffee and cookies.

Mr. Speicher - moved that we adjourn at 10:00 p.m.

Reine Rush

Reine Rush (Mrs. Alan S.)

Recording Secretary



## OFFICERS:

## CHAIRMAN:

MRS. W. E. ECKLER  
BOX 193  
DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA

## VICE CHAIRMAN:

HERBERT L. GILDAN  
ROOM 1018 HARVEY BLDG.  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

## SECRETARY:

MRS. ALAN S. RUSH  
812 FLAMINGO DRIVE  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

# PALM BEACH COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 18, 1966

## MEMBERS:

MRS. A. J. VANBERKUM ✓  
KENNETH NOLAN ✓  
MISS MAMIE T. SHANNON ✓  
CHARLES MUNNINGS ✓  
WEST PALM BEACH  
MRS. LAWRENCE R. LEVITON ✓  
PALM BEACH  
MRS. CHARLES TAFFEL ✓  
PALM SPRINGS  
MRS. LESLIE G. THOMPSON ✓  
LAKE WORTH  
PAUL SPEICHER ✓  
DELRAY BEACH  
WILLIAM F. MITCHELL ✓  
BOCA RATON  
MRS. MILDRED LARRICK ✓  
LAKE HARBOR  
MRS. F. H. POTEETE  
PAHOKEE  
LARRY ROYAL  
BELLE GLADE

The regular meeting of the Palm Beach County Library Advisory Committee was called to order by the Chairman, Mrs. W. E. Eckler, on Wednesday, May 18, 1966, at 8 p.m. in the Lake Worth Library.

Members present were: Mrs. Eckler, Mr. Gildan, Mrs. Rush, Mr. Speicher, Mrs. Leviton, Mrs. Larrick, Mr. Munnings, Mr. Nolen, Miss Shannon, Mrs. Taffel, Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Opel and Mrs. Nye.

Dr. McGee of the Lake Worth Library Board, Miss Weir, Mrs. Gertrude Pender and Mrs. Joan Creech of the Lake Worth Library Staff also attended the meeting.

Members absent were Mrs. Poteete and Mr. Royal.

The minutes of the April 20, 1966 meeting were accepted as received.

At the April meeting Mrs. Larrick was asked to find out the salary of the Pahokee Librarian. She reported that the salary is \$2,600 per year payable from the General Fund of Pahokee.

The Chairman mentioned her expenses for long distance telephone calls and the secretary's expenses for envelopes and other supplies before our stationery was printed. She wrote to County Commission Chairman George Warren and he replied that no funds were appropriated for this committee and suggested we set up funds in another manner.

\* Mr. Gildan made a motion that we approach the County Commission to have an appropriation in the next budget to cover our past and anticipated expenses. Motion seconded by Mr. Speicher and carried.

In Mrs. Eckler's letter to Commissioner Warren she told him that we were meeting regularly and have a survey in draft form and are deeply concerned about the matter. Mr. Warren wrote that he will look forward to our report some time before the next budget.

Mrs. Eckler set up an appointment with County School Superintendent Robert Fulton last Wednesday, May 11th. Mr. Gildan and Mr. Council were present at this meeting. Mr. Fulton suggested we prepare a written proposal setting forth what we have in mind.

Mrs. Eckler read the following points: 1. That school libraries be kept open after school hours as needed for reference. 2. That school libraries should be available to those enrolled in adult education classes. 3. Better cooperation and communication between public libraries -- being sure public libraries have reading lists and are advised of special projects going on. 4. Under what circumstances could facilities be open for the general public at least in certain areas (Is this legally possible?) Mrs. Eckler will write a letter to Superintendent Fulton stipulating these points.

The Chairman has received a letter from Miss Verna Nistendirk of the State Library Staff saying she will be in Jupiter to speak at a Chamber of Commerce Coffee at the Royal Lion Restaurant on May 21. Mrs. Eckler asked Mrs. Nye to attend this coffee. Mrs. Eckler will meet with Miss Nistendirk later that day in West Palm Beach.

CONTINUED



MAY 18, 1966

Mrs. Eckler reported that the new library standards were very thoroughly gone over at the convention in Clearwater. No one was happy about them and they are back in committee.

There was a discussion of our making an interim report to the County Commission in July.

- \* Mr. Gildan made a motion that we have a committee to edit the current survey --to remove everything but statistical facts from the report and submit it to Miss Elizabeth Cole to be re-produced and returned to us to be submitted as the state library survey of Palm Beach County. Motion seconded by Mrs. Larrick and carried.

The Chairman will try to have a revision of the survey by the June meeting. Mrs. Leviton and Mrs. Nye will serve on the revision committee.

Our next meeting should be Wednesday, June 15, at 8 p.m. at the Riviera Beach Library. Mrs. Ne will let Mrs. Eckler know if this will be possible.

Mr. Speicher has been under the assumption that a loose federation could be formed including all libraries in the county and they would be reimbursed in cash but instead they would be reimbursed in "kind of services." Mrs. Eckler will discuss this with Miss Verna Nistendirk.

Mr. Speicher read some figures that he recently secured from Mr. Edgar Maxwell, County Tax Assessor, on total taxable values 1965 broken down by municipalities and unincorporated areas.

- \* Mr. Gildan made a motion that this committee go on record that it has found a need for improved and expanded library service in Palm Beach County. Motion seconded by Mrs. Taffel and carried.

Mrs. Eckler strongly urged committee members to read about how county library systems can be set up. Palm Beach County is unique as to size and distribution of centers of population.

Mr. Nolen made a motion that the meeting be adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Reine Rush

Reine Rush  
(Mrs. Alan S. Rush)

Secretary

## OFFICERS:

## CHAIRMAN:

MRS. W. E. ECKLER  
BOX 183  
DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA

## VICE CHAIRMAN:

HERBERT L. GILDAN  
ROOM 1018 HARVEY BLDG.  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

## SECRETARY:

MRS. ALAN S. RUSH  
812 FLAMINGO DRIVE  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

PALM BEACH COUNTY  
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 15, 1966

## MEMBERS:

MRS. A. J. VANBERKUM  
KENNETH NOLEN  
MISS MAMIE T. SHANNON  
CHARLES MUNNINGS  
WEST PALM BEACH  
MRS. LAWRENCE R. LEVITON  
PALM BEACH  
MRS. CHARLES TAFFEL  
PALM SPRINGS  
MRS. LESLIE G. THOMPSON  
LAKE WORTH  
PAUL SPEICHER  
DELRAY BEACH  
WILLIAM F. MITCHELL  
BOCA RATON  
MRS. MILDRED LARRICK  
LAKE HARBOR  
MRS. F. H. POTEETE  
PAHOKEE  
LARRY ROYAL  
BELLE GLADE

The regular meeting of the Palm Beach County Library Advisory Committee was called to order by the Chairman, Mrs. W. E. Eckler, on Wednesday, June 15, 1966, at 8:10 p.m. in the Riviera Beach Public Library.

Members present were: Mrs. Eckler, Mrs. Rush, Mr. Speicher, Mr. Munnings, Mrs. Taffel, Mrs. Thompson and Mr. Nolen.

Mrs. Ruth Fales of the Lake Worth Library Board also attended the meeting.

Members absent were: Mr. Gildan, Mrs. Larrick, Mrs. Leviton, Mrs. Poteete, Mr. Royal, Miss Shannon, Mr. Opel and Mrs. Nye.

In the absence of a quorum, no business could be transacted. However, there was considerable discussion.

The Chairman read a letter she received from Mr. Charlie T. Council in reply to her inquiries (see minutes of May 18) concerning school libraries. 1. It is planned to keep some school libraries open after hours. 2. High School libraries will be kept open for those adults enrolled in the school adult education classes. 3. It would be too time consuming to send public libraries school reading lists. However, Mr. Council suggested that the schools should receive reading lists from the public libraries. 4. Mr. Council doubted whether in the future it would be possible to open school libraries to the general public. The public could read in the school libraries during their regular hours but it would be difficult to have them check out books as students might need the books. 5. For information concerning the Palm Beach Junior College library, Mr. Council referred us to Dr. Harold Manor, President of PBJC.

The Chairman read a letter from County Commission Chairman George Warren. The Commission has agreed to take action for expenses "out of pocket" for our committee. He suggested writing a letter and possibly naming an amount. Mr. Speicher suggested asking for \$500 and saying that we are not going to spend it unless we have to. Mrs. Eckler will write Commissioner Warren and request an allotment of \$500 for our committee expenses.

REVISION OF SURVEY: Mrs. Eckler and Mrs. Leviton took out references to recommendations but left explanatory material from ALA to give it meaning.

Mrs. Eckler: "If what we did meets with your approval, I will send the revised survey on to Miss Cole with the suggestions." She will ask for 100 copies of the revised survey to be duplicated at the Florida State Library and returned to us.

Mr. Speicher had lunch with Dr. Sessa of the Dade Library. Dr. Sessa told him there was a court decision on the West Coast of Florida in Pinellas County that made it impossible to tax a community that allocated tax money for public libraries.

JUNE 15, 1966

There was a discussion of a loose federation of libraries which must include 75% of the population in order to get state and federal aid. The Chairman showed some sheets of figures of county cities and presented some combinations of towns to meet 75% population figure. Mrs. Taffel pointed out that if we all joined in a loose federation of libraries it would give us the 75%. If we could tax those who are not being taxed, we could still have a loose federation. Libraries would have to be open free of charge. Of course, there would be administrative problems.

Mrs. Eckler had a talk with Miss Verna Nistendink of the State Library when she was here on May 21. Miss Nistendink told the Jupiter-Tequesta group about our committee and told them to get in touch with us. They are concerned about library service in their area.

Mr. Nolen: "Has it been resolved that this committee wants to get state and federal aid?" He is opposed to federal aid and would like to see us exhaust all other possibilities.

\* Mr. Nolen made a motion that this committee recess for the months of July and August. Motion seconded by Mr. Munnings. Those present (7 members) voted for this motion.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 14, 1966. Mrs. Eckler will try to arrange to have it at the Boynton Beach Library.

The Chairman suggested that perhaps we could have some small committee meetings during the summer. She will get in touch with Mr. Gildan and others and they will try to come up with some plans.

Upon motion of Mr. Speicher, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.



Reine Rush

Secretary

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\* As a quorum was not present — if this motion does NOT meet with the approval of any member absent from the June 15th meeting — please tear this off, SIGN, and mail it to the Secretary, Mrs. Alan S. Rush, 812 Flamingo Drive, West Palm Beach, Fla. 33401

IMMEDIATELY.



## OFFICERS:

CHAIRMAN:  
MRS. W. E. ECKLER  
804 183  
DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA

VICE CHAIRMAN:  
HERBERT L. GILDAN  
1024 1013 HARVEY BLVD  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

SECRETARY:  
MRS. ALAN S. RUSH  
812 FLAMINGO DRIVE  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

PALM BEACH COUNTY  
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
*September 21, 1966*

## MEMBERS:

MRS. A. J. VANBRYUN  
KENNETH NOLEN  
MISS MARIE T. SHANNON  
CHARLES M. MURRINS  
WEST PALM BEACH  
MRS. LAWRENCE P. LEVITON  
PALM BEACH  
MRS. CHARLES TAFFEL  
PALM SPRINGS  
MRS. LESLIE G. THOMPSON  
LAKE WORTH  
PAUL SPEICHER  
DELRAY BEACH  
WILLIAM F. MITCHELL  
BOCA RATON  
MRS. WILFRED LAROCK  
LAKE HARBOR  
MRS. F. H. POTTEE  
PALM BEACH  
LARRY ROYAL  
BEE SUCK

*The regular meeting of the Palm Beach County Library Advisory Committee was called to order by the Chairman, Mrs. W. E. Eckler, on Wednesday, September 21, 1966, at 8:15 p.m. in the Boynton Beach Public Library.*

*Members present were: Mrs. Eckler, Mr. Gildan, Mrs. Rush, Mrs. Leviton, Miss Shannon, Mr. Speicher, Mrs. Taffel, Mrs. Nye and Mr. Opel. Those absent were: Mrs. Larrick, Mr. Murrings, Mr. Nolen, Mrs. Potteete, Mr. Royal and Mrs. Thompson.*

*Mrs. Eckler welcomed the following members of the Boynton Beach Library Board: Mrs. M. Wertz, Mrs. Peter Zwart, Mrs. Herbert L. Keatts, Mrs. Mark White, Mrs. Lottie Pierce and Mrs. Henry Sabot.*

*Mrs. Leviton made a motion that we dispense with the reading of the minutes of the June 15th meeting. Motion seconded and carried.*

*The Chairman announced that she has told inquiring reporters that we aren't ready yet to make any public statements. This is our eighth meeting and we are trying to arrive at conclusions after having a free exchange of ideas.*

*She received a letter from Miss Verna Nistendirk offering us two films: "Public Library Service to Adults" and "Books for All" (showing operation of Erie County Library system). Mrs. Rush made a motion that we thank Miss Nistendirk for her thought and if we feel the need of these films, we will get in touch with her. Motion seconded and carried.*

*There was a discussion of Miss Cole's letter in regard to charges in her survey (copies were sent to all committee members). Mr. Gildan made a motion that we go no further with Miss Cole on the revised state library survey and that we keep it for our own information. Motion seconded and carried.*

*Mrs. Eckler: "We have reached a point to tell our thinking." Mrs. Leviton suggested inviting members of the County Commission to a briefing session on what our problems and findings are.*

*Points to be considered: 1. We are on record as agreeing that some sort of a county library system is necessary.*

*2. There are two ways that are accepted in Florida; one is to set up a county library system where there is a five-member board appointed by the governor. The other system is a federation of libraries with contractual arrangement -- main library in system with whom County Commission would contract. There would be a 15 member advisory board.*

*Mr. Gildan moved that we consider these as two basic possibilities for Palm Beach County and we go on record as favoring the federated system of county libraries. Motion seconded by Miss Shannon and carried.*

*3. The next problem is money -- the tax base. Mr. Speicher made a motion that the tax base be the unincorporated areas plus those incorporated municipalities not now supporting libraries with tax monies and any other incorporated areas which might choose to be taxed by the county for library purposes. Motion seconded by Mr. Gildan and carried.*

*(CONTINUED)*

Mrs. Eckler: Shall we spell out what we mean by a federation?

Mrs. Leviton read a contract with Volusia County as an example.

4. Mr. Opel made a motion that all present municipal libraries meeting minimum standards to be established will be encouraged to contract with the county library system. Motion seconded by Mrs. Taffel and carried.

5. Mr. Gildan: Our main objective should be to get every library we can to join the county library system. When we are serving 75% of the population, then municipal libraries which are members of the county system as well as the county library system will be eligible for state library funds. However, even if we do not reach the 75% figure at the start, we are in favor of a county library system being established.

6. Mr. Speicher: Our present thinking is that the main contract should be with the City of West Palm Beach and the West Palm Beach Library to serve to administer the county library system. There would be a 15 member county library advisory board to work with the West Palm Beach Library Board. Each County Commissioner would appoint three members for a three-year term on a staggered basis. Some of the duties of this advisory board would be to inform the West Palm Beach Library Board of the needs in the various parts of the county. It would make up the budget for the county system. It would set minimum standards for membership in the county system, and would serve as liaison with the municipal libraries. It would also function in the area of public relations. Local libraries will remain autonomous except for a few contractual obligations.

Mrs. Eckler asked Miss Shannon whether hours for school libraries were the same as she reported to the committee last year. Miss Shannon replied that school libraries were open  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 hour before and after school last year. If there are any changes, they have been made since the opening of the school year (possibly due to increase in school population).

Mr. Gildan suggested that we should have an interim meeting before our next meeting -- program should be explained especially to those members not present tonight.

Mrs. Leviton reminded us that some of the County Commissioners may be going out of office.

The Chairman announced that the next meeting will be Wednesday, October 19, at the West Palm Beach Public Library. The secretary, Mrs. Rush, will call Miss Zella Adams in regard to reserving the auditorium on that date. It was suggested that our committee will meet at 7 p.m. and invite the County Commissioners to be with us at 8 p.m. for a progress report and briefing session. Mrs. Eckler will write letters to each County Commissioner inviting him to the October 19th meeting. Also a covering letter will go out with these minutes explaining this to all our committee members.

The Chairman thanked the Boynton Beach Library Board for the refreshments.

Upon motion of Mr. Speicher, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

*Reine Rush*

Reine Rush (Mrs. Alan S. Rush)

Recording Secretary

OFFICERS:

CHAIRMAN:  
MRS. W. E. ECKLER  
BOX 183  
DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA

VICE CHAIRMAN:  
HERBERT L. GILDAN  
ROOM 1018 HARVEY BLDG.  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

SECRETARY:  
MRS. ALAN S. RUSH  
415 FLAMINGO DRIVE  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

PALM BEACH COUNTY  
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

P. O. Box 183  
Delray Beach, Fla.  
October 1, 1966

MEMBERS:

MRS. A. J. VANBERKUM  
KENNETH NOLAN  
MISS MARIE T. SHANNON  
CHARLES W. NUNN, NGS  
WEST PALM BEACH  
MRS. LAWRENCE R. LINTON  
PALM BEACH  
MRS. CHARLES TAFFEL  
PALM SPRING  
MRS. LESLIE G. THOMPSON  
LAKE WORTH  
PAUL SPEICHER  
DELRAY BEACH  
WILLIAM F. MITCHELL  
BOCA RATON  
MRS. MILDRED LARRICK  
LAKE HARBOR  
MRS. F. H. POTTEE  
PANDORA  
LARRY ROYAL  
BELLE GLADE

MEMO TO: LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FROM: MRS. W. E. ECKLER, CHAIRMAN

I am sorry that we did not have 100% attendance at our September meeting. We had very good and free discussion and as you will see from the minutes, it was a very fruitful meeting. You will realize as you read them that no absolutely final plan has yet evolved and that there are several very meaty problems yet to be considered such as the millage rate which will mean the preparation of a preliminary budget. We just did not have time to get into that at this meeting. You will also realize that this information is not for general publication. Those of us at the meeting felt that any premature statements could be harmful to our final effort.

You will also note that we are inviting the members of the Board of County Commissioners to meet with us on October 19th. We felt that we should give a progress report to the Commissioners so that they will know what we have accomplished. A meeting with all of us and them present where we could talk this over seemed to be the best way to handle it. I have a letter from Mr. Warren stating that they will all be present.

As you read these minutes, if you have any questions, please let me know as soon as possible. The committee will meet at 7:00 P.M. in the West Palm Beach Public Library on October 19th to have an hour in which to discuss any of the matters in the minutes which may not be clear to those of you who were not at the meeting. We are anxious that the Commissioners know that we have worked very harmoniously and that our decisions have been reached only after full discussion and full agreement. The decisions made at the meeting were unanimous and we, of course, hope that those of you who were not there will be in at least general agreement as we feel it very important to present a united opinion and a plan that we can all defend. May I ask you again to call or write me if you have any question regarding any part of the action taken.

Please mark your calendars now for 7:00 P.M. at the West Palm Beach Public Library on Wednesday, October 19th, as we should all be present if at all possible.



## OFFICERS:

CHAIRMAN:  
MRS. W. E. ECKLER  
BOX 163  
DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA

VICE CHAIRMAN:  
HERBERT L. GILDAN  
ROOM 1018 HARVEY BLDG.  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

SECRETARY:  
MRS. ALAN B. RUSH  
818 FLAMINGO DRIVE  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

PALM BEACH COUNTY  
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 19, 1966

## MEMBERS:

MRS. A. J. VANBERKUM  
KENNETH NOLAN  
MISS MAMIE T. SHANNON  
CHARLES MUNNINGS  
WEST PALM BEACH  
MRS. LAWRENCE R. LEVITON  
PALM BEACH  
MRS. CHARLES TAFFEL  
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MRS. MILDRED LARRICK  
LAKE HARBOR  
MRS. F. H. POTEETE  
PANORAMA  
LARRY ROYAL  
BELLE GLADE

The regular meeting of the Palm Beach County Library Advisory Committee was called to order by the Chairman, Mrs. W. E. Eckler, on Wednesday, October 19, 1966, at 7:00 p.m. in the board room of the West Palm Beach Library.

Members present were: Mrs. Eckler, Mr. Gildan, Mrs. Rush, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Larrick, Mr. Speicher, Miss Shannon, Mrs. Nye, Mr. Opel, and Mr. Munnings. Those absent were: Mr. Nolan, Mrs. Leviton, Mrs. Taffel, Mrs. Poteete and Mr. Royal.

Mr. Gildan made a motion that the minutes of the September 21st meeting be accepted as distributed. Motion seconded and carried.

Mrs. Eckler: On basis of what we have — shall we get permission of County Commission to go ahead and approach cities to find out whether they are interested in participating in a federation of libraries? Then present our findings to the County Commission in April and do our selling job in May and June.

Mr. Gildan made a motion that we dispense with the December 21st meeting. Motion seconded and carried.

He thinks we should have small group meetings to come up with a realistic budget and consider contractual arrangements.

Mr. Speicher: We should take into consideration that the first year may be an administrative year. We should think in terms of 3 to 5 years. It may be necessary to hire an administrator.

Mr. Opel inquired as to whether we might arrive at a per capita cost.

Mrs. Eckler read some figures on basis of 2.5 or  $\frac{1}{4}$  mill tax base on \$262,039.00 — not quite \$2 per capita for those people in unincorporated areas not supporting libraries. Libraries which come into a county system should at least meet that figure. Mrs. Eckler will call County Tax Assessor for current 1966 figures.

Mrs. Eckler displayed a tabulation with headings:

Municipality	Population	Taxable Value	Per capita Library Support	Library/Support Millage in Taxes
		Non-exempt		

Mrs. Eckler asked Mr. Gildan to be Chairman of a committee on contracts and select from the PBLAC those who want to work on it.

Mr. Gildan suggested we divide geographically — Miss Shannon, Mr. Munnings, Mrs. Leviton and Mrs. Rush could be on his committee.

Mr. Speicher was appointed Chairman of the budget committee with Mrs. Eckler, Mrs. Taffel and Mrs. Thompson serving on this committee.

There is a lot of research to be done.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 18, 1967 at the Boca Raton Library.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. to continue at 8 p.m. in the work room of the West Palm Beach Library.

*Rene Rush*, Secretary

## OFFICERS:

## CHAIRMAN:

MRS. W. E. ECKLER  
BOX 183  
DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA

## VICE CHAIRMAN:

HERBERT L. GILDAN  
ROOM 1018 HARVEY BLDG.  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

## SECRETARY:

MRS. ALAN S. RUSH  
818 FLAMINGO DRIVE  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

PALM BEACH COUNTY  
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 19, 1966

## MEMBERS:

MRS. A. J. VANBERKUM  
KENNETH NOLEN  
MISS MAMIE T. SHANNON  
CHARLES MUNNINGS  
WEST PALM BEACH  
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PAHOKEE  
LARRY ROYAL  
BELLE GLADE

The meeting continued at 8:00 p.m. when the committee members present (Mrs. Eckler, Mr. Gildan, Mrs. Rush, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Larrick, Mr. Speicher, Miss Shannon, Mrs. Nye, Mr. Opel and Mr. Munnings) were joined by Commissioner and Mrs. E. W. Weaver, Commissioner E. F. Van Kessel, Miss Zella Adams, head librarian of the West Palm Beach Library and Mr. Huber, librarian at Riviera Beach.

Commissioner Warren phoned from Lantana that he was delayed by a political meeting. He will call Mrs. Eckler in the morning and look to other commissioners to brief him.

Mrs. Eckler: We had an organizational meeting in November 1965; then resumed in January 1966 after the holidays. It has been a joy to work with this committee. We have worked hard--the majority did their homework. We had frank discussions. The things I am going to tell you tonight we do agree on. This is not a final report. We are now needing your guidance before we take further steps. The first thing we did was to have a consultant from the Florida State Library.

The basic findings are: That we have 14 municipal libraries; 212,255 people; 103,874 people unserved. These 14 libraries spent \$335,820 during 1965-66. Most of this was tax money from the municipalities-- amounts to just over \$1 per capita, \$1.58 per capita for population served. This ranges for individual from  $\frac{1}{2}$  per capita to \$3.35 per capita. From these figures you will see the problem is rather self-evident.

We recognize the fact that libraries are terribly important. When anyone is moving into a community, they look at schools, churches, libraries and recreation. Their age and economic level will determine at what point their interest is in a library. Our fund of knowledge doubled between 1900 and 1950 especially in the scientific areas and is expected to double in the next decade. Libraries will take on even more significance.

This is not a final report. We did agree on:

1. That we have some sort of a county library system is necessary.
2. There are two ways that are accepted in Florida: one is to set up a county library system where there is a five-member board appointed by the governor. The other system is a federation of libraries with contractual arrangement --main library in system with whom County Commission would contract. There would be a 15 member advisory board.
3. Tax base -- we have spelled this out: the tax base will be the unincorporated areas plus those incorporated municipalities not now supporting libraries with tax monies and any other incorporated areas which might choose to be taxed by the county for library purposes.
4. That all present municipal libraries meeting minimum standards to be established will be encouraged to contract with the county library system.
5. Our main objective should be to get every library we can to join the county library system. When we are serving 75% of the population, then municipal libraries which are members of the county system as well as the county library system will be eligible for state library funds. However, even if we do not reach the 75% figure at the start, we are in favor of a county library system being established.



6. Our present thinking is that the main contract should be with the City of West Palm Beach and the West Palm Beach Library to serve to administer the county library system. There would be a 15 member county library advisory board to work with the West Palm Beach Library Board. Each County Commissioner would appoint three members for a three-year term on a staggered basis. Some of the duties of this advisory board would be to inform the West Palm Beach Library Board of the needs in the various parts of the county.. It would make up the budget for the county system. It would set minimum standards for membership in the county system, and would serve as liaison with the municipal libraries. It would also function in the area of public relations. Local libraries will remain autonomous except for a few contractual obligations.

Which of the present libraries would be interested in joining in a contractual arrangement? It would mean that anyone who had a library card would be able to use any library in the county system. We should have some indication of what kind of cooperation we are going to have from these 14 libraries.

We cannot presume to approach any of them without first going to you-- the County Commissioners. We will have to work up some budget figures -- right up-to-date figures.

We decided not to meet in November and December -- during the months we will meet in north and south county committees.

We do have contracts in Florida which do meet with the Florida law. What we are asking from you is comment, criticism, suggestion and direction.

Mr. Van Kessel: Problem is to for a tax district.

Mr. Gildan: Specifically we are talking about coming up with a minimum standard-- at least  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mill of \$1.50 per capita in order to be a library that would contract with the county. Those outside municipalities would pay their fair share.

At this time, Mrs. Charles Taffel, committee member arrived.

Mr. Weaver: Any experimental work that you have done with last year's tax figures will not be far off. The County will not decrease its income -- only about \$4,500.

Mr. Van Kessel: Big problem--not fair to put a tax upon people who are already paying a tax for same purpose. We can't justify this even in fire districts.

Mr. Speicher: Court decision fortifies that position.

Mr. Weaver: Have you had the opportunity to view any contracts in existence?

Mr. Gildan: We propose breaking up into committees. We have copies of Hillsborough, Orange and Volusia County contracts to study.

Mr. Speicher: These contracts would be entirely voluntary. If necessary, we can serve the area between Boynton Beach and Delray Beach with bookmobiles.

Mr. Van Kessel: Asked names of libraries and Mrs. Eckler read 14 names.

Mr. Gildan: There is nothing north of North Palm Beach.

Mr. Weaver: I question how you are going to move from this point on. We have to consider the time element. What you do in two committees will have to be finalized.

I am delighted and encouraged at the progress you have made and appreciate the work. Do you have any idea when you can bring the balance of this information from the standpoint of budget and contractual arrangements?

Mrs. Eckler: Hope we will have a real good start in both of these areas. Hope



we can sit down with city councils and library boards. For example, sit down with City Commission which will look for direction from its library board. City Commission will send a memo to library board saying, "what do you recommend?" Hope there will be three or four of our committee members present at these meetings. Possibly by April or May 1st we would be able to come to you.

Mr. Van Kessel and Mr. Weaver: Thought there would have to be special legislation.

Mr. Gildan: Told them about State Law - Chapter 150 of the State Statutes.

Have general fund of the County--those not presently taxed now in a taxing district.

Miss Zella Adams: It is possible for a County to contract with a city. The law is very flexible.

Mr. Van Kessel: Asked some questions about legislation.

Mr. Gildan: All these questions were raised in Pinellas County.

Mrs. Eckler: No special legislation was needed.

Mr. Weaver: Time element will be of a minimum.

Mrs. Eckler: Will it help if Mr. Gildan talks to the County Attorney? Mrs. Eckler gave Mr. Weaver a copy of State Law, Chapter 150 of the State Statutes.

Mr. Gildan: We would like to set up a standard. These 14 libraries are not totally financed by taxes.

Mrs. Eckler: We are hoping we will have something to offer them that they will want to be a part of.

Mr. Weaver: You have a wide range.

Mr. Gildan: We would have a minimum standard.

Mrs. Eckler: Advantages -- 1. The larger the number of books that are purchased, the greater the discount. 2. The smaller libraries for a given number of dollars would be able to buy more books. 3. County system would have trained, qualified personnel, special children's librarians. Smaller libraries could not afford a trained librarian. They would have these trained personnel as resource people. 4. Perhaps they could have monthly meetings of these librarians to discuss problems, to get advice, have in-service training.

Mr. Huber: National Union Catalog -- \$3,500 for example.

Mr. Gildan: Minimum standard which would be set would elevate standards of libraries in the county.

Mrs. Taffel: Like minimum foundation for the schools.

Mr. Opel: If Pahokee signs contract, a man from Pahokee over here could use any member library in the county to draw on return books.

Mr. Gildan: Whole county standard would move up.

Mr. Weaver: Thinks the answer is to go ahead.

Mrs. Taffel: When do you first start sitting to discuss the budget?

Mr. Weaver: In June.

Mr. Van Kessel: It sometimes takes six months to set up the budget.

Mrs. Eckler: The first year's budget would be an organizational budget (administrative matters, how many bookmobiles, etc.).

This body can make certain recommendations within a broad framework. There is, of course, no county we can turn to -- our geography is different. Dade County is the only county that has as many libraries. Our problem is unique -- in many ways we are cognizant of this. We hope to come to you with a five-year projection--not necessarily a five-year budget.

Mr. Speicher: This cannot be done over night.

Mr. Van Kessel: If you got off to a start too quickly, more problems would develop.

Mrs. Eckler: 12 Years ago a group of citizens had an idea that we wanted a county library system. Mrs. Allison T. French headed this group. It came up to the County Commission and got a complete turn down.

I don't know if I am out of order. We were set up by the present Board of Commissioners. We see ourselves as a continuing committee that was established for a purpose and until that purpose is accomplished, we will continue regardless of November 8.

Mr. Van Kessel: It would be a shame to break up the Government Study Committee.

Mr. Weaver: Sincerely thanked the committee for all their work.

Mr. Speicher: We would have to go into high gear on the matter of districting.

Mrs. Eckler: If we do not have to go to the legislature, the tax base is all they need.

Mr. Van Kessel: Have you gotten an opinion of the unincorporated areas as to whether they want a county system?

Mrs. Eckler: Jupiter requested Free Public Libraries. Unincorporated areas should be educated to it. We haven't gone into unincorporated areas and talked with home owners. We had not jelled our thinking. We feel that you people are the first to know our thoughts. I now feel free to tell people and we may be getting some reaction. I have been getting calls from the press. Should the press call tomorrow, I could give them these points, if you think this is all right.

Mr. Weaver: I think this is all right.

Mrs. Nye: The sooner we start educating the unincorporated areas and the ones who do have libraries and want to come in, the better off we'll be.

Mr. Van Kessel: Asked about unincorporated areas.

Mr. Gildan: Haverhill, Westgate, etc. -- 20,000 people -- We are almost in a vast minority.

Mrs. Eckler: We'll keep West Palm Beach under wraps. If it should wind up that it is a contract between the City of West Palm Beach and Palm Beach County --

it does not actually mean that it would be headquartered in this building. We are going to have to work for a headquarters for processing, purchasing, housing of bookmobiles, etc. Maybe the headquarters could be out at the air base in a quonset hut with air conditioning.

Mr. Van Kessel: Perhaps it could be in the new courthouse complex.

Miss Zella Adams: The unincorporated areas of Dade County have contracted with the Miami Public Library but the actual work is still not done in the Miami Public Library -- the building is on Dinner Key. We don't have the staff here. We have 19 and would need 150. We have close to 1500 - 1600 borrowers who are non-residents. Adults are charged \$4.00; children \$2.00. You have to be a permanent legal resident of West Palm Beach to get a free library card.

Mr. Gilder: We just don't want to go ahead until the County Commission tells us to.

Mr. Weaver: Frankly, you have the blessing of the County Commission.

Mrs. Eckler: We will not start contacting various library boards until after January.

Mrs. Taffel: Could our Chairman write up publicity and submit it to Mr. Weaver?

County Commissioners Weaver & Van Kessel: Mentioned it might be taken up as a campaign issue. It was suggested that we hold this news until after November 8.

Mr. Van Kessel: Thinks present members feel as he does. If there is a change, we will bring new members up-to-date on this.

Mrs. Eckler: Thanked County Commissioners Weaver and Van Kessel for being present. Please let us know if they have any questions. We can send out a memo when the minutes go out. Thanked Commissioners for \$500 in the budget. It is altogether conceivable when we come up with a plan that might be widely circulated, we will need public support and public understanding. As news gets out and reaction we get from City Commissioners and Library Boards, we will get word out to press, radio stations, TV, etc.

Thanked Miss Zella Adams for letting us meet in the West Palm Beach Public Library and thanked Mr. Huber for attending this meeting.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

*Reine Rush*

Reine Rush (Mrs. Alan S. Rush)  
Secretary



Findings to date:

1. We are agreed that some sort of a county library system is necessary.
2. There are two ways generally used in Florida: One is to set up a county library system where there is a five-member board appointed by the Governor. The other is a federation of libraries with contractual arrangement. With this there would be a 15 member advisory board. We are in favor of the federation.
3. Tax base: The unincorporated areas plus those incorporated municipalities not now supporting libraries with tax monies and any other incorporated areas which might choose to be taxed by the county for library purposes.
4. All present municipal libraries meeting minimum standards to be established will be encouraged to contract with the county library system.
5. It is understood that when we are serving 75% of the population, municipal libraries which are members of the county system as well as the county library system will be eligible for state library funds. However, even if we do not reach the 75% figure at the start, we are in favor of a county library system being established.
6. Our present thinking is that the main contract should be with the City of West Palm Beach and the West Palm Beach Library to serve to administer the county library system. There would be a 15 member county library advisory board to work with the West Palm Beach Library Board. Each County Commissioner would appoint three members for a three-year term on a staggered basis. Some of the duties of this advisory board would be to inform the West Palm Beach Library Board of the needs in the various parts of the county. It would make up the budget for the county system. It would serve as liaison with the municipal libraries. It would also function in the area of public relations. Local libraries will remain autonomous except for a few contractual obligations.



Our findings show that as of December 31, 1965 we had  
14 municipal libraries in the county which served  
212,255 people leaving  
103,874 people unserved

These 14 libraries spent, according to the figures submitted  
to us, a total of \$335,820 in 1965-66. Most of this was  
tax money.

~~This amount~~ is to just over \$1.00 per km capita for the county.

~~This amounts~~ to \$1.58 per km capita for the population served.

~~The range~~ for the individual libraries is from 3 cents per capita  
to \$3.33.

The standard set for Florida is \$5.00 per capita.

## OFFICERS:

## CHAIRMAN:

MRS. W. E. ECKLER  
BOX 183  
DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA

## VICE CHAIRMAN:

HERBERT L. GILDAN  
ROOM 1015 HARVEY BLDG  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

## SECRETARY:

MRS. ALAN S. HUSH  
812 FLAMINGO DRIVE  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

PALM BEACH COUNTY  
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

P. O. Box 183  
Delray Beach, Fla. 33444  
October 24, 1966

## MEMBERS:

MRS. A. J. VANBERKUM  
KENNETH NOLEN  
MISS MAMIE T. SHANNON  
CHARLES MUNTINGS  
WEST PALM BEACH  
MRS. LAWRENCE R. LEVITON  
PALM BEACH  
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MRS. MILDRED LARRICK  
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MRS. F. H. POTEETE  
PAHOKEE  
LARRY ROYAL  
BELLE GLADE

To: Librarians in Palm Beach County

From: Mrs. W. E. Eckler, Chairman Advisory Committee

Will you kindly supply me with the information requested below in order that we will have the most current data possible to continue our work. Send one copy to me and retain one for your files. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Library

1. What is the total budget for your Library for 1966-67? \$ \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the total amount of tax monies received to meet this budget? \$ \_\_\_\_\_
3. Does your budget include salaries, insurance, building maintenance and care of grounds? \_\_\_\_\_
4. If not, what is not included and how is it paid? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is its cost? \$ \_\_\_\_\_
6. What is the total net assessed valuation (after exemptions) of your city for 1966-67?  
(Call your tax assessor for this information.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
7. What will the population of your city be as of December 31, 1966 as estimated by the building inspector in your city? \_\_\_\_\_